to report progress on the implementation of the Scheme, as funds for the same have been released towards the end of March, 2006. During 2006-07, provision of Rs. 520.00 crore has been made in the budget and Annual Action Plan of 10 States have been approved for an amount of Rs. 207.29 crore to cover an area 1.90 lakh hectares. It is expected that an area of 6.2 lakh hectares will be covered under Micro Irrigation by the end of Xth Plan.

Vaccine for bird flu

*269. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has developed an indigenous vaccine against the deadly disease 'bird flu'; and

(b) if so, by when the vaccine is likely to be available on commercial scale and how its market price would compare to the price of imported vaccine for the disease?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps have been initiated for the availability of indigenous vaccine. The cost of indigenous vaccine would be around one third of the cost of imported vaccine.

Exclusion of poor from PDS

*270. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission during the year 2005, after an evaluation of Public Distribution System, found that 57 per cent of the poor had been actually excluded from PDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken to rectify the above;

(c) whether there is any proposal to return to the universal PDS; and

(d) the number of people covered under targeted PDS for the last five years, State-wise, year-wise and category-wise?